

## Once you have read this please add a page to our Wiki and write about the following reflections:

Consider Marc Prensky's vision ("Listen to the Natives") for motivating students raised on interactional time with computers: "desirable goals, interesting choices, immediate and useful feedback, and opportunities to see . . . yourself improve."

Prensky contrasts this "21st century" way of learning, which engages youth when they play computer and video games, with more traditional techniques, such as routinized group activities and lectures delivered by the teacher.

Discuss whether your classroom learning environment provides these four motivational conditions. How are goals for student work created in your class, how much choice do students have in their work, and how immediately can students tap into feedback that reflects their progress?

Pick one of these four elements—desirable goals, choices, immediate feedback, and the ability to see improvement—and brainstorm ways in which you and your students could use digital technologies available within your school to infuse that element more fully into academic work.

In what ways could your students experience desirable goals, choices, immediate feedback, and evidence of improvement that do not involve digital technologies?

Prensky's assumptions are based on technological advances for students to learn.

Marc Prensky's article (Listen to the Natives), certainly was an eye opener. I am sure for all teachers including myself, who didn't realize or didn't take notice how technological our students have become in and outside of our classrooms especially around the world and this article was written in 2005!. I have to agree, that I am certainly an immigrant who needs to ratchet up my classroom a bit if not a lot with lessons and innovations that engage students with all aspects of learning.

Last year, I taught second grade and must confess, my learning environment was a very traditional one as opposed to what Marc Prensky's visioned as cited in his article. For instance, goals for student work in my class were outlined and created by the teacher with little or no input by students. Goals in the classroom were outlined on the whiteboard with provided daily instructions or lessons to be taught. Their progress was placed on a bulletin with shiny stars of work completed. As mentioned before, my students didn't have much in the way of choice in their work. Feedback from students was at best, minimal as it was given in the form of test results, report cards and homework to be checked off as done or missing. This coming new school year, I plan to have my new second graders receive immediate feedback in more technological way. I want them to check their progress not only on the bulletin board but on my or their computer with outlined grades or percentages of lessons taught on a daily or bi weekly basis to give them an idea what their progress is and what improvements could be made or discussed with the teacher or with other students.

Outside of technology, I will discuss formally, goals with the students and let them decide along with myself, which ones may be more important and interesting than others. Experienced goals will be realized with their accomplished work and attained progress in their agenda books and progress charts. As with goals, choices will be employed by four to five learning centers with different disciplines such as math, writing, reading, and art with each in the form of games. They will have the choice of either center after they have accomplished their work. Immediate feedback will come in two forms. The teacher will

immediately provide positive encouragements on work accomplished or in progress while walking around the classroom and checking each student. Secondly, students will show work or answers such as in math with small whiteboards and raising them in air with answers to problems given by the teacher. Evidence of improvement will be daily shown by daily short quizzes in math, reading comprehension skills, and writing. They will be discussed in groups as well and be monitored and checked off on teacher's ledger to show progress to students and parents. I look forward to teaching my new students this year and apply Prensky's principles in my classroom so that I will grow with them in more technological fashion.